Cross Cultural Competencies  
(SIC1104)  

Syllabus  
Winter Semester 2019/20

Weekly hours: Intensive course: two 90-minute sessions in three consecutive weeks  
ECTS-Credits: 2  
Workload: 12 hours attendance and up to 30 hours self-study and preparation, presentation in an intercultural team, written assignment  
Time: 8.00 am - 11.15 am  
Begin: October 2019  
Level: Entry  
Prerequisites: Language: English B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Outline of the course

The topics and skills which are covered include:

1. communicating without restraint in an English-speaking environment  
2. reflecting and appreciating the own culture  
3. understanding the far-reaching characteristics of national culture  
4. discussing culture theories and their manifestations in national and corporate cultures  
5. acquiring skills to assess and understand different cultures, act cautiously and react appropriately  
6. analyzing and finding solutions to cultural case studies  
7. giving formal effective presentations  
8. work successfully in an international team

Literature:

Students may wish to refer to some of the following books/magazines:  
Bob Dignen “Communicating Across Cultures” Cambridge University Press - 2011
Learning Objectives:

The aim of this course is to sensitize students to the existence of a number of different cultures and their importance in human interaction in private and working life.

In addition, students will get an insight into cultural dimensions, some important culture theories and how these manifest themselves both in national and corporate cultures.

Through practice of all four language skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing in an English-speaking work environment, students will also learn to reflect and cope with some of the communication difficulties involved in conducting business with partners from different cultural backgrounds.

Course contributions to bachelor programs’ common learning goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LO</th>
<th>Learning Objective / Outcome</th>
<th>Contributions to learning objectives</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Expert knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Discussions in smaller groups in which each student contributes actively</td>
<td>Class discussions, oral feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>… in cultural differences.</td>
<td>Understand: Hofstede Mole Lewis Guanxi</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>… in cultural dimensions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>… in culture theories.</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>… in critical incidents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Use of information technology</strong></td>
<td>Task division, gain special information in given time</td>
<td>Active exchange of researched information with other groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Critical thinking and analytical competence</strong></td>
<td>Analysis of various reading passages and video clips to provide better understanding of some cultures and culture phenomena.</td>
<td>Discussions within class, Oral feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Ethical awareness</strong></td>
<td>Active discussion of dilemmas faced by companies when dealing with business partners of other cultures</td>
<td>Discussions within class</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td><strong>Communication skills</strong></td>
<td>Analyze cultural backgrounds Identify problem Recommend appropriate behavior Reference to any one culture theory Focus on awareness of cultural differences Presentations with written handout</td>
<td>Written case study assessed by teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Students demonstrate their oral communication skills in presentations.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Group presentation assessed by teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Capacity for teamwork</strong></td>
<td>Small group discussions of cultural dimensions, examples, group presentations</td>
<td>Role plays, practical task assessed within class. Presentation assessed by teacher</td>
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Teaching and Learning Approach:

The main focus of this course is on sensitizing students to a number of different cultures and values to be able to cope in challenging situations. English communication skills (all four skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing) will be practiced. The class is run as a workshop with an interactive approach.

Students are expected to make an active contribution to class, role plays, group discussions, class feedback. Students will also be required to give group presentations on any one of the two given assignments which will be graded for structure, cultural content and analysis, delivery, visual aids, cultural theory references and/or culture phenomena. Students are also required to provide a one sheet hand-out summarizing the main points of the topic.

Grading:

Grading will be based upon a group presentation, the work in the class, the handout and/or a written assignment (depending on instructor of the course)

Winter semester 2019/20 Preliminary tentative schedule (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1       | Introductions  
Presentation phrases, assignments.  
Define culture, Culture iceberg,  
Cultural onion, Cultural divide,  
examples and practice |
| 2       | Cultural theories, including some of the following:  
Mole  
Lewis  
Guanxi  
Hofstede  
E.T. Hall  
Gesteland  
examples, exercises  
(possibly group presentations, exercises) |
| 3       | Group presentations, exercises |